

## REMARKS

### Claim Amendment

Applicant submits that no new matter has been added as a result of the claim amendments.

Claims 15-20 are drawn to a method of determining the risk of developing bone disease in an individual by determining the expression level of WNT signaling antagonist such as DKK1. The claims are clearly supported by Examples 8-11 and Table 2.

Claims 21-25 are drawn to a method of determining the risk of developing bone disease in an individual by determining the level of DKK1 protein. The claims are clearly supported by Examples 15-16.

Claims 26-30 are drawn to a method of treating or preventing bone disease in an individual by inhibiting the expression of a WNT signaling antagonist. Claims 31-34 are drawn to a method of controlling bone loss in an individual by inhibiting the expression

or function of the *DKK1* gene. The claims are clearly supported by Examples 8-11.

Claim 35 is drawn to a kit for measuring the level of DKK1 protein. The claim is clearly supported by Examples 15-16.

Claims 36-38 are drawn to a method of treating or preventing bone disease in an individual having long term steroid use, said method comprises the step of inhibiting the expression of a WNT signaling antagonist such as DKK1. The claims are clearly supported by Example 13.

#### Fees

A total of 14 claims, including 5 independent claims, were filed with the application prior to the instant amendments. In the instant preliminary amendment, all 14 prior claims are canceled, and a total of 24 claims, including 6 independent claims, are filed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 07-1185 in the total amount of \$79 for the

filing fee of 1 extra independent claim and 4 claims in excess of 20.  
Please credit any overpayment or debit any underpayment to  
Deposit Account 07-1185.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*My 20, 2004*



Benjamin Aaron Adler, Ph.D., J.D.  
Registration No. 35,423  
Counsel for Applicant

ADLER & ASSOCIATES  
8011 Candle Lane  
Houston, Texas 77071  
(713) 270-5391 (tel.)  
(713) 270-5361 (facs.)  
badler1@houston.rr.com